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Berlin Wall a reminder of the Kremlin's two faces

…e Germans must take very good care indeed to ensure that we do …in the long run, make a fateful mis… …that of confusing cause and effect.

…e live at the most volatile point of …tension-laden East-West border, so …y demands are made on our nerves.

…ut we also have experience second to …; it ought to enable us to pass less …otion-laden judgement on the origins …tension and ways of ending it.

The twentieth anniversary of the Ber… Wall should be a timely reminder to …se who all too readily talk in terms …realpolitik.

Coming to terms with realities cannot …ely mean generously ignoring what …to the realities in the first place.

The building of the Wall was but the …ctacular climax of a succession of …eaches of the law for which the …wers that be in Moscow and East Berlin found one bogus justification after …other.

By August 1961, when the Wall was …ilt, most people had forgotten that …lin had been blockaded for months …the late 40s and been the subject of …ultimatum by Mr Khrushchev in the …50s.

Most had also forgotten, by and large, …in both cases the Western powers, …cially the United States, stood their …round and saved West Berlin from the …e that befell the eastern part of the …y.

In August 1961 many rated as treach…y what was later hailed as *realpolitik* …d sound judgement.

The United States pledged itself to safeguard West Berlin but attached greater …portance to keeping the peace than to …sting on keeping its word.

This is worth recalling because there is currently a tendency to regard the selfsame Americans as warmongers.

It has no bearing on whether or not the policy of the Reagan administration or its predecessor was wise; as a policy it does, in fact, leave much to be desired.

But it is dangerous, and not just lamentable, that many people are now prepared to credit the Soviet Union with being an angel of peace.

The Russians can thus yet again feel justified in expecting the innocent party to be ruled guilty merely because he behaves in a timorous manner.

Soviet propaganda is certainly experienced at both approaches, the dove of peace and the blunt instrument hammering home an unpalatable message.

Moscow cannot complain of being shown a lack of understanding, helpfulness, a sense of reality or readiness to cooperate in the years since the war.

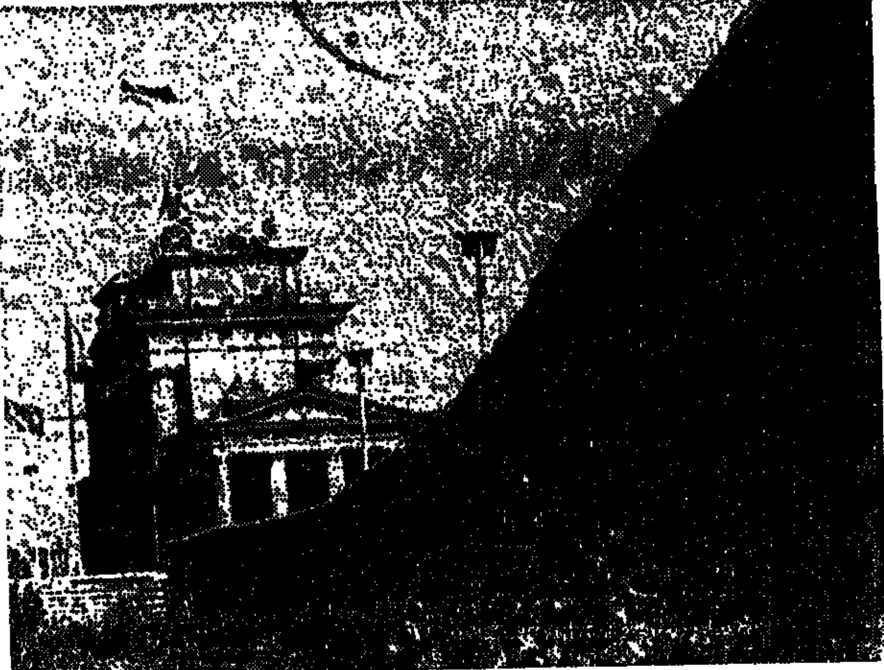
As a rule the West has yielded for the sake of peace, and not for nothing is President Roosevelt highly regarded in the Soviet Union today.

What distinguished FDR from his successors was that he did not live to see the consequences of his inordinately trusting policy towards Stalin's Moscow.

Experience shows time and again that the Kremlin is less likely to respect trust alone than it is to respect firmness in dealings with it.

So Moscow need hardly be surprised at Mr Reagan's election or by his policy approach. Intentionally or unintentionally the Soviet Union has, by virtue of its behaviour, contributed towards a feeling of humiliation arising in the United States.

By European standards President Reagan has overcompensated for this sense of humiliation, but that is very much in keeping with the American mentality.



Looking towards the Brandenburg Gate on the west of the Berlin Wall, which is 20 years old (See page 5). (Photo: Sven Simon)

That is something the Russians, given as they are to inferiority complexes, must learn to appreciate. In corresponding post-war periods they behaved in much the same way.

Moscow too is given to responding with wailing and gnashing of teeth, with defamation and, as one might expect, with massive threats.

Bonn has emerged as the whipping boy in the process. It holds a key position, supposedly being the weak link in the West.

So Moscow's propaganda guns are trained full blast at Germany and have been ever since Bonn put forward the December 1979 Nato resolution.

Pressure has been redoubled since President Reagan announced his decision to go ahead with the neutron bomb.

The Kremlin seems prepared to subordinate everything else to the propaganda opportunity of transforming the widespread peace movement in the Federal Republic of Germany into a movement of full frontal anti-Americanism.

Pravda has even gone so far as to equate the possibility of medium-range nuclear missiles being stationed in Germany by Nato from 1983 with a breach of the 1970 Moscow Treaty.

It is typical of the Soviet approach that mention is made of the undertaking given by both Bonn and Moscow in the 1970 treaty neither to use force nor to threaten to do so.

Bonn may feel it is threatened by the Soviet SS-20 missiles aimed in its direction but Moscow rates any such suggestion a gross defamation of the Soviet desire for peace.

By the same token Secretary of State Haig's offer of talks was brusquely rejected. Moscow saw it as a mere ploy with which Bonn was associated in

Continued on page 7

IN THIS ISSUE

…HE GERMAN TRIBUNE is conduct…g a readership survey. With some …ues this week a postcard is included. …ease fill it in and return as quickly as …ssible.

Genscher seeks tight EEC security consultations

Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher feels the European Community ought to cooperate more closely on security policy.

He has suggested setting up a council on security policy affairs, and what he has in mind is not a gathering of EEC Defence Ministers.

Member-countries are to be represented as they see fit by the minister responsible for whatever security issues come up for discussion.

This extension of EEC responsibilities forms part of a plan to help set up a European Union, details of which have been released by the Free Democrats, Herr Genscher's party, in Bonn.

Current political, security and economic conditions urgently call for initiaive, he feels, towards a uniform political powerhouse for all spheres of European integration.

The FDP leader mentioned a number of reasons why, in his view, a politically effective structuring of Europe was so urgently needed.

They included the neutron bomb, medium-range missiles, Poland and Afghanistan. All were of vital importance to Europe.

"For a Europe that is not to be found between the two great powers but forms part of the democratic West," he said, "cheapskate anti-Americanism cannot be the solution in the circumstances.

"The determination to achieve political, security and economic freedom of activity and decision must alone prevail."

Herr Genscher continued, sounding a note of unmistakable criticism: "Nothing can be gained by lamenting about the great power behaviour of the United States and about many of the twists and turns of US policy that are so hard to follow from this side of the Atlantic."

There was still less to be gained by moaning about Uncle Sam and at the same time doing nothing but looking on inactively and resignedly in matters of European integration.

A Europe consolidated by political integration must be enabled to shape its own future as an equal partner of the United States.

Specifically, he suggested concluding a treaty not setting up (given the reservations a number of EEC countries were sure to have) but establishing a framework for a European Union.

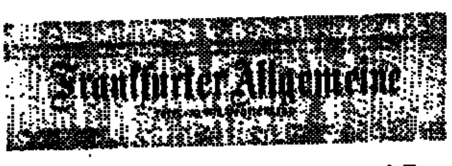
It must certainly include domestic and external security and cultural cooperation. Herr Genscher also thinks closer foreign policy and external economic policy cooperation within the EEC essential.

Bernt Conrad

(Die Welt, 14 August 1981)

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Competition or co-operation in Latin America poser for USA and Europe



Whether the United States and Europe should co-operate or compete in Latin America was one of the main topics at an international conference in Brasilia, the Brazilian capital.

Specific subjects such as energy supply, capital markets, foreign trade, defence and security were high on the agenda.

Latin America has played an active part in world politics since the 1960s.

Countries such as Brazil, Venezuela, Mexico, Argentina and naturally, Cuba, have been trying to loosen their traditional ties with the Western hemisphere.

They have distanced themselves from the United States and established closer ties with the communist world.

They have also concentrated on developing relations between countries of the developing world and wooing Western Europe.

This has been a little embarrassing for European countries because they want to avoid friction with Washington over countries south of the Rio Grande.

Also they had doubts about the long-term consequences of the changes.

The European countries also feel that their interests in the Mediterranean region, Africa and Asia should not clash with newly developed interests in Latin America with all the incalculable elements this would involve.

It has been obvious for years that talks with Latin America should go beyond issues of tariffs, investments and technology and that they should involve fundamental political issues. Such talks would have to include North America — especially in view of the European-North American conflicts that have arisen in Latin America (Chile, nuclear deal with Brazil, Central America). Such clashes of interests can no longer be regarded as minor mishaps.

We owe it to Riordan Roett, the founder and director of the John Hopkins University Centre of Brazilian Studies in Washington and to Wolf Grabendorff of the German Institute for Political Studies that this dialogue has at last come about.

An initial trilateral round of talks was held near Chicago in May.

The papers that were read and subsequently discussed concerned primarily such key countries as Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela.

One of the topics was the diminishing North American influence in the region.

The closing paper presented by Roett dealt with the question "Does the United States still have a future in Latin America?"

The meeting in Brasilia was more concerned with Latin American and European aspects in such specific areas as energy supply, capital markets, foreign trade and defence and security.

The emphasis was on the question whether the United States and Europe could cooperate in Latin America on the basis of a division of labour or whether they will compete and clash with each other.

It is obvious that no clear answers can be expected from such conferences.

Even so, it clearly transpired that Europe had an edge in the trilateral Latin American-North American-European relations.

The European group presented this edge convincingly and the Latin Americans largely seemed to have gone along with these views.

Latin America, the Europeans said — and many Latin Americans agreed — had become a region of world politics marked by an ever growing pluralism both politically and economically.

While the Americans, in their own zone, were never seriously exposed to an alternative to the American way of life and found it extremely difficult to understand this pluralism, Europeans take different political and economic systems and conflicting ideologies for granted or at least consider them as something one has to live with. As a result, Europe can also better understand such plurality in Latin America.

The thesis presented by the Argentinian Carlos Puig to the effect that Europe still presupposed that the prime responsibility for the hemisphere rested with the United States was rejected in the discussion.

Though this might apply for official foreign policy which, in view of Nato interests in the immediate vicinity of the United States, has to exercise a certain restraint, it does not apply to the wide range of what are called transnational relations.

Another view that was rejected in the discussion was that Latin America was a security problem for the United States only and not for Europe. Such an argument would apply only if security were seen in purely military terms.

But if security is taken to mean the stability of the region as a whole — in other words, the ability of Latin American governments and societies to cope with crises — then this entire issue must be reviewed and this could entail the necessity of radical reforms.

Although the Latin Americans are receptive to such ideas, there were no attempts on the part of the Europeans at the Brasilia meeting to curry favours at the expense of the Americans.

The German participants stressed that tried and proven principles of world trade cannot be simply jettisoned by Latin America in favour of "unionist" or other arrangements in line with the demands under the New International Economic Order.

They also stressed that there was a clear difference in defence needs and requirements from country to country and region to region.

Despite North American-European competition in Latin America, the North Atlantic Alliance must enjoy priority.

The Latin Americans at the conference were told that their wooing of Europe must not restrict itself to economic demands.

Latin America must not rivet its eyes on the European Community and on national ministries. Instead, it should actively develop transnational partnerships.

The series of new Atlantic trilateral conferences is to be continued in Germany next spring, if possible with politicians as partners in the discussion.

The fact that the Germans were dominant among the European group in Brasilia is not only due to the initiative of Wolf Grabendorff and the financial support the Germans received from the Fritz Thyssen and the Friedrich Ebert Foundations but to the preponderance of Germans among Europe's Latin America experts.

Even so, it is doubtful whether we will have enough experts in the long run to provide the necessary advice to policy makers.

In any event, a beginning has been made with the new Atlantic trilateral conferences.

In the long run we Europeans will only succeed in maintaining friendly relations with Latin America if we are promoting stability if all participants regularly air their views, wishes and apprehensions in a clear and straightforward way.

Manfred K...

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 12 August 1981)

Bonn's help needed for a law of sea tight spot



The Geneva Law of the Sea Conference has reached a confrontation between the developing countries and the United States.

At issue are provisions governing exploitation of seabed resources and the transfer of technology.

The situation is that Bonn is being forced to declare its hand.

Until now it has been relying on Washington to look after its interests.

The developing countries are trying to isolate Washington. Their joint declaration creates the impression that the United States is the only remaining country that wants to negotiate the compromise agreement.

They admit that other countries (including some from the Third World) are also dissatisfied with the agreement.

But they maintain that all have come to terms with it and are prepared to put up with some disadvantages in order to get the benefits.

As the Third World sees it, the oceans and coastal regions have already been distributed regardless of the new Law of the Sea Treaty.

The developing countries have jumped the gun and have made it clear even before the Treaty is signed that any exploitation of seabed resources by the United States or any other country would be regarded as "illegal".

Though the spokesman for the developing countries conceded that the United States has the right not to sign the Treaty, he also stressed that any unilateral action in exploiting the seabed would be regarded as a violation of international law.

The spokesman also refused to go along with a US request that the talks be reopened.

The developing countries want to conclude the costly negotiations that have extended over many years. The current 10th round of talks, they demand, must pass a draft treaty by 4 September at the latest.

And they seem to mean it, realising that they can outvote the United States any time, despite its political and economic weight.

Their joint statement indicates no way out of a confrontation. As a result, the United States now urgently needs support that would carry adequate international weight.

This could come from the European Community. But since the Community, contrary to the provisions of its Treaty, has been unable to agree on a common policy, a few of its members such as Belgium and the Federal Republic of Germany would have to take up the cudgels alone.

Of course, they would risk being steamrolled; so the German delegation will have to summon a lot of courage to stand up to the Third World.

In view of the general consensus among the parties represented in the Bundestag there should be no problem in taking an active stand in the Law of the Sea debate.

The course of action is clear. The European Community must be ... despite the fact that it is ... the game.

Without Washington's financial contribution (25 per cent of the Law of the Sea Authority's budget) and the contributions made by the EEC nations, the developing countries would find it impossible to enforce a Law of the Sea dictated by them.

But the draft agreement clearly ... that even statements that are not ... binding can create political and ... mic precedents of far-reaching ... quences.

In future talks, it will be necessary to ensure that things are not driven to a point where they grow over one's head.

Should this happen, there would be no way out but to brusquely block further proceedings, as the current Law of the Sea Conference shows.

Erich Ro...

(Handelsblatt, 12 August 1981)

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THE BALANCE OF POWER

Neutron bomb card is the first hand of a brand new East-West game



In going it alone on the neutron bomb President Reagan has prompted rethink in Nato in general and the Federal Republic of Germany in particular.

A likely target area Germany can claim to be a most seriously affected country.

There can be no telling what the outcome of the repercussions may be.

The US decision may one day be seen as a been a turning point in the history of the Atlantic pact.

The properties and effects of the new bomb will probably be a minor consideration. There is little point in arguing whether it is purely defensive or may be used in attack, for instance.

Technically and tactically there is not much difference between the two; the difference, if any, is strategic.

The Soviet Union, say, would launch an attack on Western Europe, always assuming it were planning one or felt prompted to launch one, differently as soon as neutron bombs were based in the Federal Republic.

Would that make war more likely? Would it lower the nuclear threshold? These are problems that will need thinking over and debating.

But reflection and discussion are not going to come up with an answer to why the United States announced its decision when it did, especially as the crucial step of basing the bomb in Europe is yet to be taken.

Even if the decision had been kept secret and only been made public in negotiations it would still have had its military effect.

So the US government must first and foremost have been politically motivated, and Defence Secretary Weinberger has made no bones about one motive.

If Bonn and other European governments planned defence spending cuts, he said, the United States would have to plug the gap by nuclear means.

There has also been talk of US annoyance with Bonn for insisting on going ahead with the pipelines-for-natural gas deal with the Soviet Union.

Whatever the reason, Washington has certainly shown the Europeans whose word counts in the West.

But what effect was the move designed to trigger in the Kremlin and what repercussions will it have in Moscow? These questions matter more in the long run, especially to Nato.

The US decision testifies for one to the deep-seated scepticism of President Reagan and his advisers as to whether there is any point in negotiating with the Soviet Union.

Take, for instance, Mr Reagan's considered opinion that Moscow is given to hoodwinking the other side whenever it feels it might stand to gain by doing so.

America thus prefers to take the initiative and act, not talk, as in the case in point. So much for the Reagan administration's method.

For another, it shows that Washington has chosen to play a trump card in response to Soviet activities in countries ranging from Angola to Afghanistan and in view of the SS-20 missiles and Backfire bombers.

Moscow naturally takes a different view, but that does not upset President Reagan or Defence Secretary Weinberger. They also have a third motive, and it is the one that clinched the decision.

If the United States is unable to knock out the Soviet Union it must at least show Moscow who is No. 1 again, that being the only way in which the current US administration sees coexistence as feasible.

Since the President feels communism is virtually at its last gasp, as in Poland, this is considered a practicable objective, so why not help matters along a little?

One opportunity of so doing is arguably to step up the arms race by developing the neutron bomb.

There can, indeed, be no denying that the communist world is in the throes of a serious crisis, but the situation in Poland proves how extremely difficult a change of course is after 35 years of Soviet socialism.

How much more difficult it must be in Russia's case, with Bolshevism in power for nearly twice as long as in Poland and the people and country looking back on an entirely different past.

Besides, the Soviet Union is still a superpower and it would be risky to underestimate it.

So pundits are wondering with increasing frequency whether the qualitative superiority of Western arms has not boomeranged, having grown far too costly, sophisticated and liable to technical hitches.

One tank of an advanced design may be more than a match for five less sophisticated tanks, but this advantage is outweighed when the supertank is 10 times more expensive.

US experts in particular warn against exerting extra outside pressure on a power like the Soviet Union that is in the throes of a domestic economic and social crisis.

Its response could prove unpredictable, especially in the military sector in which it still feels strongest. In the nuclear era trends such as this could grow incalculably dangerous.

So would it be surprising if Europeans, now President Reagan has gone it alone, were to wonder whether the Western superpower is still capable of coping with an increasingly complex world?

For other reasons and in other contexts the same question can, of course, be asked in respect of Moscow, and it is not just Europe being supercilious.

In Europe too there are many who no longer understand what is going on in the world. Least of all do they understand that in the circumstances little can be gained and much may be forfeited by merely exercising power.

Often it is much more effective (although much more difficult) to negotiate rather than to take action.

There more complicated problems

Continued on page 5

The big test: how the batting line-ups compare

There can be no telling what effect the neutron bomb may yet have on West ties, but arms control talks between Washington and Moscow on strategic weapons seem unlikely to be affected.

The neutron device is not a Eurostrategic weapon in any case, and if the Soviet Union were to stall talks on its account it would be doing the United States a favour.

At the moment the timetable is due for a meeting in mid-September when the UN General Assembly convenes in New York.

Secretary of State Haig and Foreign Minister Gromyko will meet during the session to pave the way for talks to be held on neutral ground in Europe in November or December.

These East-West talks form part of the December 1979 twofold Nato resolution, the other part being the decision to modernise Eurostrategic nuclear missiles.

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt referred to the problem in October when he noted that the Soviet Union had attained inordinate superiority in this category of weapons.

This was a special problem because the missiles were nowhere on the international arms control agenda, neither the Vienna MBFR talks nor in the negotiations between Washington and Moscow.

The issue at stake in Vienna was troop cuts in central Europe, while the Salt talks dealt with strategic arms. Medium-range missiles in Europe came in between the two, as it were.

In Nato as theatre nuclear weapons come in three categories:

- theatre nuclear weapons with a range of up to 100km and nuclear protective belts,
- fighter bombers and missiles with nuclear warheads and a range of up to 1,000km
- and medium-range missiles with ranges of between 1,000 and about 5,000km.

America wants talks to be limited to the third category and to land-based systems only. The situation is as follows:

The East has 360 SS-4s and SS-5s, both being systems that are due to be phased out as SS-20s are deployed. Then there are 250 SS-20s, of which 175 are aimed at targets in Europe.

That makes 535 launcher devices and 885 warheads (three each in the SS-20s and one for each of the others).

Nato, in contrast, has no land-based medium-range missiles. France alone, which is not an integrated military member of the North Atlantic pact, has 18 single-warhead systems.

Since the East has a virtual monopoly of land-based medium-range missiles, the West is to modernise its systems unless progress is made at talks by the end of 1983.

The proposed Nato missile modernisation programme will eventually total 108 Pershing 2s and 464 Cruise missiles.

The East strongly disagrees with the Western view. Moscow says it cannot merely be a matter of land-based systems; talks must deal with all US nuclear systems based outside the United States and capable of hitting targets in the Soviet Union.

These are the so-called forward based systems to which Moscow has constantly referred throughout the Salt talks without, however, clearly defining them.

If the Soviet Union were to have it way medium-range bombers and heavy fighter bombers would have to be included in the equation.

Of these the East has more than 850, aircraft known in Nato as Backfire, Badger, Blinder and Fencer respectively. The West, including Britain and France, has 240 aircraft, F-111s, Vulcans and Mirage Mk 4s. Russia would like to include US nuclear sub missiles too.

Oskar Lafontaine, Saarbrücken burgomaster, is one of those who feel it would be fair to do so even though these missiles have been included in the Salt equation.

The Soviet Union would also like to include A6 and A7 carrier aircraft based in the Mediterranean and Phantom and Starfighter jets.

Yet these systems cannot, for the most part, be classed as medium-range potential because they just to not have the range.

The Kremlin also notes that Britain has 64 and France 80 missiles on board submarines. But if they were included, 18 Soviet missiles on board Golf class submarines in the Baltic would also have to count.

The overall balance must then include land-based medium-range weapons, medium-range bombers and heavy fighter bombers and British and French nuclear sub missiles.

On this basis the Soviet Union has over 1,400 nuclear systems, as against the West's 400-odd Eurostrategic weapons.

Nato sources claim the Soviet figures is in need of upward revision, since the SS-20, the missile that has been largely to blame for upsetting the Eurostrategic applecart, has three warheads and can be reloaded.

So the West concludes that the Warsaw Pact has four-to-one superiority over Nato in medium-range nuclear weapons and that this lead is being steadily increased.

These figures certainly show how complicated it is for East and West to come to terms in this sector.

To simplify matters the United States suggests dealing solely with land-based systems and disregarding forward based systems and the nuclear potential of Britain and France.

The Soviet Union says this would give the Americans an unfair advantage from the outset, so Moscow is in no way inclined to accept the US proposal.

So the position is complicated even before talks about talks have been held. The negotiations seem sure to prove much more difficult than either Salt or the Vienna MBFR talks.

Helmut Berndt

(Saarbrücker Zeitung, 11 August 1981)

MIGRANTS

Heart of asylum-abuse problem lies in Constitutional safeguards

The dispute over the right to political asylum in the Federal Republic of Germany is being fuelled by the system's appetite for cash and by growing problems with aliens.

Politicians in the CDU/CSU in particular insist that quicker processing of applications and more stringent regulations be brought in.

All the parties agree that mass abuse of asylum provisions must be prevented.

But they disagree on how — even the coalition partners.

The urgency of the issue has been increaced with the arrival in West Berlin of several thousand Sri Lankans.

Then unemployment figures for July were released. These showed that there are 160,000 foreign jobless in West Germany — compared with 90,000 in July last year.

Though the government has announced that it would present a blueprint for the more efficient handling of applications in the autumn, details are still unknown. It is also still wide open whether the *Länder* will be able to get the bills they decided on last December through their State legislatures.

Yet time is important. For one thing, the number of foreigners living in this country is growing steadily (4.5 million at present) and so is the danger of public xenophobia.

This is already in evidence in metropolitan areas with a high ratio of foreigners (Frankfurt 19.2 per cent, Stuttgart 17 per cent).

For another, there were close to 110,000 asylum applications in 1980, which is 20 times the figure for 1973. But only one in ten applicants gains recognition as a political refugee.

And, third, there are indications of a rising crime rate in connection with asylum seekers. There are those blood-sucking "agents" who bring them to this country and promise to help them gain refugee status. And many asylum seekers resort to drug pushing during the long wait for a decision on their applications.

But those who see only these negative sides and use this as a reason to sound the alarm make it too easy on themselves.

The number of asylum seekers has dropped dramatically since July 1980. In February 1980 there were more than 13,000 applications. This figure has meanwhile dwindled to a monthly average of 3,000 (600 of whom are accounted for by refugees from the East Bloc).

But the *Länder* and municipalities, beset by money problems, consider even this too much. They also complain that things are going from bad to worse, especially in Berlin. As they see it, the 1978 and 1980 legislation to speed up asylum procedures is inadequate.

Grave problems still remain to be solved despite the streamlining of our asylum laws. It might sound trite to speak of political explosives, but this does not change facts.

Phony political asylum seekers and people whose only reason for coming to Germany is to better their economic lot are naturally seen as a provocation in a country wracked by public debts.

Moreover, the burden these applications impose on our courts in procedures that frequently take years endangers the German citizen's recourse to the law.

So nothing is more understandable than demands that our courts and authorities be equipped with more effective instruments to enable them to separate the wheat from the chaff as speedily as possible.

The *Länder*, regardless of the ruling party, have agreed to do exactly this.

They want hopeless asylum applications to be ruled on by the aliens authorities rather than by the Federal Office for the Recognition of Foreign Refugees.

Recourse against denied applications is to be restricted to a speeded up version of the present procedure.

Those cases that go to court are to be ruled on by individual judges rather than a panel; and negative court rulings would be reviewed by a higher ... only in very special cases. The fa... there would be no third judicial ... would revolutionise our legal system.

Domestic and legal policy make... the governing parties have their re... tions about this type of procedure.

There is a serious dispute in... making between the FDP and the... The liberals favour a preliminary s... of applicants by civil servants, ... not the aliens authorities but the Fe... Office for the Recognition of Fo... Refugees.

SPD MPs, on the other hand, ... the current procedure though ... the right of appeal following ... court ruling.

All proposals are clearly aimed at fin... ding a solution that would be ... ible with our democratic Consti... But no matter how you look at it, ... the more cautious changes boil do... a curtailment of the right to asylum.

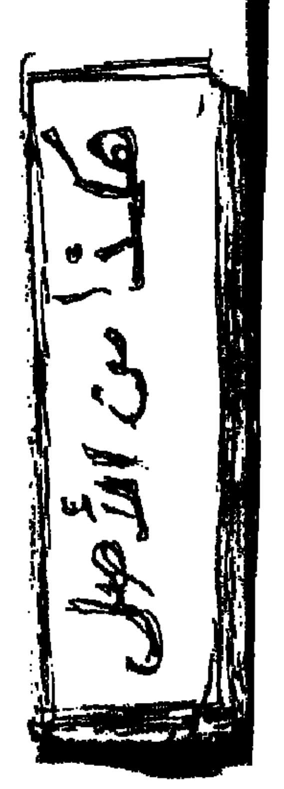
The fathers of the Constitution ... a point of attaching paramount im... tance to this right due to the ... Germans who sought and found ... abroad during the Hitler era. B... stressing the importance of thi... they also made abuse of the privileg... sier.

More than 70,000 people have ... been granted political asylum und... provisions of the Constitution.

Is this right now to be revised ... abbreviated, speedy procedures not... tanding the fact that people's lives c... be at stake?

One day we might have to risk ... exactly this. But for the time bei... should wait and see how the new ... lation works and restrict changes t... absolutely necessary. *Helmut Ker...*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 10 August ...)



Incentives to return being considered

One out of ten foreigners in Baden-Württemberg could be persuaded to return home, given the right incentives.

But without incentives the stay here would be indefinite, according to a survey by the Baden-Württemberg Labour Ministry.

Some 3,300 heads of foreign workers' households were questioned.

The still unpublished survey was made two years ago but experts say that the findings still apply.

The Baden-Württemberg government has commissioned a team headed by Interior Minister Roman Herzog to work out how to prevent the illegal immigration of relatives of foreign workers in this country and persuade those living here to return home.

In Baden-Württemberg ten per cent, of the population are foreigners.

The survey indicates that only about 25 per cent of the 335,000 foreign households in Baden-Württemberg have any definite plans about going home, although some 97,000 (29 per cent) intend to go some time.

153,000 families (46 per cent) would not even contemplate leaving Germany.

Yet of those who do not wish to go home or have only vague ideas on the subject, some 35,000 families (about 90,000 people) could be persuaded to return home, given strong incentives.

But the repatriation of these families would be costly. They by and large expect that their moving costs be paid and that all money paid into the social security pensions fund be reimbursed to them. This boils down to an average of DM 30,000 per household or a total of DM 1.05bn.

But this amount only seems exces... Compared with child allowance ... ments, it is peanuts: it equals ... weeks of child allowances.

But quite apart from the fin... incentives, conditions in their ... countries (lack of jobs and lower w... naturally dampen the willingness t... repatriated.

57 per cent of the foreign wo... from non-EEC countries said that ... wanted to stay because of better ... ings.

But 34 per cent said that they ... staying to become eligible for soci... curity pensions.

This makes it obvious that a ... bursement of the money paid into ... pensions fund would make many fo... ners reconsider and return home.

Many foreign workers want to b... house or start a business in their ... countries. But they are unable ... lack of capital, so they stay in Ger...

By the same token, the longer a ... ly lives in this country the less is it ... pared to go home at all.

The Baden-Württemberg govern... now seriously seems to be consi... measures that would boil down ... agreement with the pensions fund ... fund the money that has been p... since this money would eventually ... to be spent in the form of p... anyway.

But this can only be done in co... tion with the federal government ... would have to be buttressed by ... stringent regulations on residenc... mits for non-EEC citizens.

Friedrich ...

(Mannheimer Morgen, 6 August ...)

INTRA-GERMAN AFFAIRS

17 million in the world's largest prison camp



Keeping Paradise pure. (Photo: Archiv)

...wenty years have passed since work started on the most absurd and ...icious construction of modern tiles the Berlin Wall.

August 13, 1961 is probably the ...kest date in post-war German his... embodying as it did the division of ...nation.

...a phase of feverish economic ...struction, the building of the wall ...lined the fact that the Germans started and lost the Second World ...

The main victims of this development ... still the 17 million people in East ...many.

At the same time, the building of the ... under the then head of the East ...man Communist Party Walter Ul...ht was the most painful defeat for ... communists since Lenin's October ...olution of 1917.

For the first time, a would-be modern ...e had to fence-in its citizens to pre...t them from running away. The East ...man authorities described the wall as ... "anti-fascist bulwark", and this is ...n today the official version.

But the citizens of Berlin, Leipzig and ...stock did not swallow this fairy-tale ...en in 1961.

For if, as the East German Commu...ists claimed, the Western Allies or the ...undeswehr had really wanted to invade East Berlin, the ugly stone wall with its ...arbed-wire crest would hardly have ...topped them.

And people wanting to visit East Ber... were able to do so even after the ...l was built.

Anyone wanting to leave West Ger...ny and go to the GDR can do so at ... time. So the Berlin Wall is and was ...hindrance only to East-West traffic, a ...son wall for GDR citizens.

This world-shattering event, the effec... closure of the GDR was on in the ...uid summer night of 12/13 August ...1, a Sunday.

Thousands had escaped through it to ... West in the previous weeks.

Though there had for weeks been ru...urs that Ulbricht wanted to "seal off" ... GDR, no one really believed this ...uld happen. The first to notice it ...e West Berlin taxi-drivers. From two ... the morning onwards, they radioed ... to headquarters not to accept any ...e bookings for East Berlin as the ...or crosspoints were being closed.

And as the sun appeared punctually ...ding the Berlin streets with leprous light as if mourning this world-shattering rape of freedom, customs men and policemen on the crossing points and Allied sentries noticed a lively passing to and fro of military and police vehicles in the Soviet sector.

They heard the diesel motors of heavy lorries and construction cranes. National People's Army pioneers brought up rolls of barbed wire and from six o'clock onwards grim-faced GDR factory protection officers planted themselves near the sector borders, Soviet machine guns on their burly breasts.

With impotent anger, with sheer horror, first the West Berliners, then all Germans and finally the entire non-communist world watched the beginning of the building of the wall — an unparalleled political act in recent world history.

And in the days following the 13th of August 1961 thousands of West Berliners walked to the demarcation line and watched, quivering with anger, as their city was out down the middle.

Pictures of dramatic escape attempts at literally the last minute went round the world: unforgettable the scenes in the Bernauer Strasse in the north of West Berlin, where desperate men, women and children jumped from the windows of houses on the sector border.

An old woman found — though she did not seek — death.

The GDR's ugliest construction is also its biggest and its most expensive. According to the latest by calculations published by the West Berlin Senate, the border of the former Reich capital now contains: 107 kilometres of concrete walls, 55 kilometres of metal fences, 4.8 kilometres of barbed wire, 265 observation towers for border troops, 136 bunkers, 270 dog-patrolled sections, 108 kilometres of anti-vehicle trenches and ramps.

The value of the material in the wall alone was several years ago DM1,000.

Of course the GDR regime had a reason for exposing itself and East Bloc socialism to the opprobrium of the world. But not, as it alleged, an imminent attack from the West.

Ulbricht had the wall built to prevent his penal state from bleeding to death as there was no other way of stemming the flood to the West.

In the summer months leading up to August 13, 1961, 2,000 fled from East to West Berlin.

They were not, as the GDR authorities claimed, the victims of "slave-dealers, child-snatchers and head-hunters."

They left because the GDR had nothing to offer them, materially or intellectually.

This does not, of course, mean that they did not experience many disappointments in the West.

SPD politician Herbert Wehner, who suffered more than most as a result of the division of Germany, aptly referred to the flood of escapers as "voting with their feet."

The West's contribution to this flood was slight, as is shown by a call by the then Bonn Minister of Intra-German Affairs Lemmer (CDU).

On 6 August 1961 he called on the East Germans to stay at home in the interests of the future of the nation.

This call later brought Lemmer a lot of criticism. According to official records, between 3.6 and 3.7 million people have left the Soviet sector between 1945 and today.

Half a year before the dreaded August 13, Communist leader Ulbricht, at a meeting of Warsaw Pact party leaders in Moscow, had urged the Soviets to close the Eastern sector of the city to prevent the flood of skilled workers, engineers, doctors and the like to the West.

Western observers reckoned with Draconian penalties, but not with the building of a wall.

There was considerable speculation at the time about whether the Soviet leader Kruschchev would follow up his notorious Berlin ultimatum of November 1958 by a military invasion of West Berlin.

In this ultimatum, Kruschchev called on the Western powers to leave Berlin. He declared West Berlin a free city and agreed on a separate peace with East Berlin.

Eight weeks before the beginning of the wall, Kruschchev and the newly-elected American President Kennedy met in Vienna.

Kennedy got the impression that the Soviet Union would pay any price to defend its outpost in Europe, the GDR. This meant danger for East Berlin.

This explains the difference between Kennedy's reaction to the news of the building of the wall and the German reaction. Kennedy, far from being indignant, was relieved. His secretary, O'Donnell, later wrote that Kennedy saw the move as a climb-down by Kruschchev. "If he had intended to occupy West Berlin, he would not have built the wall."

A wall through a former world capital, a monstrosity in stone separating families and friends, a scene of shooting and murder — this was something that not even Walter Ulbricht, Stalin's representative in Germany, had not been able to imagine.

At a press conference in East Berlin in 1961, a West German journalist asked Ulbricht if a border was to be set up at the Brandenburg Gate and if he was prepared to accept the consequences of such a move. Honecker's goatee-bearded predecessor replied: "Do I take you to mean that there are people in West Germany who want us to mobilise out building workers. I do not know of any such intention. Building workers in the capital spend most of their time building houses... no one intends to build a wall". That wall has been there for 20 years. How much longer? The people of Berlin, on both sides of its 45 kilometres, have to live with it.

Young adults in Kreuzberg or Gesundbrunnen have nothing but this dreadful construction in front of their windows — a construction which marks the beginning of a dubious policy of detente at the expense of the Germans.

Joachim Sobotta

(Rheinische Post, 8 August 1981)

Continued from page 3

..., both between individuals and be...en countries, the more promising it ...o attempt to solve them in conjunc...n with the other side.

Will the leaders of the superpowers ... and in the immediate future learn ... lesson fast enough? Is there any ...y in which Europeans might help?

The prospects are none too bright. ...nd advice alone is not going to be ...ugh. The powers that be must also ...e the courage to say no at times (no ...the neutron bomb, for instance).

A modicum of powers remains indi...nsable, though. The powers that be ...dom pay much heed to words alone.

Hans Gerlach

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 12 August 1981)

The human cost of The Wall

The West Berlin Human Rights Group says that 185,756 East Germans have fled to the West since the building of the Berlin Wall in August 1961.

At least 178 have been killed trying to escape.

Among the escape are 2,746 members of the East German armed forces.

The group, has learnt, from escaped border soldiers, that GDR border troops still have orders to shoot to kill.

Soldiers are required to capture or to eliminate" all those trying to escape. The group said that the GDR was auxious, of possible, to prevent fatal border incidents. So every effort is made to capture potential escapers in the preborder area 30 to 70 metres from the wall.

The constant improvements in methods of escape prevention have led to a drop in escape attemps. The number of so-called barrier-breakers dropped from 721 in 1977 to 424 last year. In the first half-year of 1981 there were only 96.

This included refugees who crossed the border hidden in cars. The great majority of refugees escaped via third countries.

On average there are 4,000 to 6,000 East German refugees per year. This dropped to an all-time low of 3,512 in 1979 but rose again to 3,988 in 1980.

It is reckoned that about 50,000 people have been given prison sentences for offences connected with escapes since 1961. 15,000 of these have been "bought free" by the Bonn government. The group reckons that another 8,000 people have been imprisoned because they applied to leave the country.

There are 4,500 political prisoners in the GDR. In the first half of 1981, 6,550 re-settlers came to Germany, 2,426 more than in the same period of 1980. And there are far more young people among them than in the past. *ddp*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 11 August 1981)

■ FINANCE

Roving dollar, boosted by confidence, looks set to turn the full circle

Today, the dollar is once more a pivotal currency and those who predicted that it would decline further are looking silly.

Any paper currency that is not convertible into gold needs confidence to be acceptable.

The dollar once more enjoys confidence on international currency markets due to America's monetary policy in which fighting inflation is the main objective.

Naturally, the dollar has become even more attractive to investors due to the high interest rates.

The contrast to the desolate shape in which the dollar found itself at the height of its crisis in October 1978 is particularly marked in Switzerland.

At that time the Swiss monetary authorities had to impose a levy as a penalty, so to speak, on all foreigners wanting to sell dollars and buy francs.

The dollar's decline began in the early 1960s when control measures interfered with the free movement of interest rates for foreign dollar deposits in America. As a result, foreign money was withdrawn from the USA.

This money found an initial haven in London and later in other money centres, eventually leading to the establishment of an overseas money market that was independent of all national regulations, the Eurodollar market.

The most prominent feature of the Eurodollar market is its freely determined interest rates for deposits and loans.

After the oil price explosion in 1973 the Eurodollar market experienced an enormous influx of dollars from the Opec countries which were wary of direct investments in the United States.

The Euromarket volume has meanwhile swollen to more than $1,450bn; more than three-quarters of this huge sum is accounted for by US dollars.

This Euromarket was instrumental in recycling the dollar surpluses of the Opec countries, channelling them all the way to the poorest of oil-consuming nations.

A free world trade was thus maintained, despite unfavourable conditions.

But the developing countries were not the only ones to have profited from the Eurodollar market. The East Bloc did also.

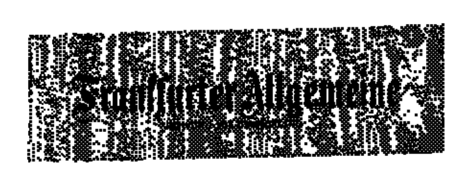
With it all, it must not be overlooked that the Euromarket also led to public sector indebtedness in many industrial countries because finance ministers found it so easy to borrow Eurodollars.

A rethinking process has meanwhile set in, triggered by the shock waves from Poland.

The moratorium on billions worth of Eurocredits to Poland that are not government guaranteed was a shock across the Euromarket's bow.

The world's major banks are now feverishly trying to reduce their risks in deals with countries other than a small group of borrowers that are still considered creditworthy.

Though the influx to the Euromarket continues, the Eurobanks find it increasingly difficult to come up with reasonably creditworthy borrowers.



Given such a tricky situation, it can only be seen a a stroke of luck that the Americans should now have decided to become borrowers on the Euromarket.

Latest credit statistics on this market show that $43bn in Eurocredits were provided in July, and a whacking $36bn went to American borrowers.

The mammoth mergers now under way in America are evidently being financed with Eurocredits.

In fact, American bankers predict that this is only a "timed beginning" and that there is every likelihood that many of the dollars that left America in the wake of general dissatisfaction with the US currency will now return in the form of credits.

The Eurobanks are not displeased about this repatriation of dollars to America. The risks in the United States are much more calculable than, say, in a Latin American or African country.

Moreover, the new mood of optimism in America stimulates the imagination and thus new credit deals. And, finally, there is the fact that America is far removed from the world's crisis areas.

Money is tight in America today and interest rates have begun to adapt to Euromarket conditions.

On the deposit side, there is a process of liberalisation in progress in the USA.

Though it will take until 1985 to liberalise American interest rates to match conditions on the Euromarket, the big money that matters is already being handled at near Euromarket conditions. There is a trend for the markets to merge.

This conspicuous integration process will now be further promoted by the Americans inasmuch as there will be a "Euromarket in America" starting from December 1981.

American banks, especially those in New York, will maintain extra-territorial market departments for Eurodollar loans and deposits.

This means that America will be allowing what German banks have hankered for in vain: full foreign deutschemark holdings. Tey have coped wi[th] situation as best they could by est[ablish]ing subsidiaries in Luxembourg.

In New York, the world's bi[ggest] money market, the "Euromarket [in] America" will have its warts [in the] beginning, and it is unlikely th[at] offshore markets (off the Ame[rican] coast) and the Euromarkets in Lo[ndon] and Luxembourg will be squeezed o[ut of] business from one day to the next [but] the weights will be shifted tow[ards] America.

The repatriation of Eurod[ollars] through American borrowers and t[heir] channelling to New York-based A[meri]can banks can be taken for granted.

Moneymen outside America [are] beginning to worry about the p[ossible] consequences that will arise whe[n the] international banking system w[ill no] longer be in a position to provide [the] rest of the world with all the doll[ars it] needs.

The financial problems of the [...] borrowers would worsen.

And then there is the question [of] the effects a strengthening of New [York] as a money market will have on the [Eu]ropean markets once the dollars [start] leaving Europe.

Though no answer is possible at [this] stage, the repatriation of Eurod[ollars] must be watched closely.

Heinz Bre[...]

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Ze[itung] für Deutschland, 12 Augu[st 1981])

Prospects for cheaper money receive a setback

Prospects for reduced interest rates and a bolstered deutschemark have been delayed because Bonn's budget has not yet been worked out satisfactorily.

If the Bundesbank is to lower interest rates, four conditions must be met.

1: American interest rates would have to come down. They are one of the reasons for the Bundesbank's high interest rates that are needed to prevent a capital outflow and thus weaken the deutschemark still further. The central bank must try to attract foreign currency to reduce the current account deficit.

Though there has been a rise in capital imports lately, this is to a large extent short-term money that can be withdrawn at any moment.

It also includes money that Bonn has borrowed abroad. The exchange rate of the deutschemark against the dollar shows that it is still premature to take an adequate influx of capital as a certainty.

2: The balance of payments has lately shown a tendency to improve, but the deficit for the first six months still stands at DM14.4bn, which is almost exactly half last year's total deficit.

It is thus still uncertain whether the Bundesbank will succeed in reducing the deficit to below the DM29bn of 1980. The trouble is that while the deutschemark depreciation helps exports, it also makes imports more expensive and promotes imported inflation.

3: The fact that inflation rates are likely to go up is another reason for the Bundesbank to continue its tight and expensive money policy. If it were not for the rising unemployment that calls for restraint, the Bundesbank would probably make money even tighter.



4: The rising inflation rate cannot be blamed only on costlier imports which reflect the higher inflation rate in the supplier countries.

They are also due to the public sector which is constantly raising its prices. Moreover, rising public sector deficits and the need to borrow contribute their bit towards keeping interest rates high and the deutschemark against the dollar weak.

The initial Cabinet decisions on the 1982 budget have not taken this fully into account. It is by no means certain that the new federal debt of about DM34bn this year can be reduced to DM26.5bn in 1982.

And even should this be the case, it coul only be achieved by transferring the lion's share of Bundesbank profits to federal coffers.

These profits have been exceptionally high this year due to interest earnings. This Bundesbank money should not have been taken into account at all when drafting the budget because it is totally unreliable since it fluctuates depending on interest rates and the development of the dollar exchange rate.

Since our growth possibilities are extremely limited, economic policy must concentrate on cutbacks in consumption spending in favour of investment spending. And this means curbing public sector demands on the money markets to enable private investment to be financed at tolerable interest rates.

Investments call for long-term fi[nanc]ing, but long-term capital accum[ulation] has diminished.

People with money to invest [prefer] short-term deals because they earn [more] interest.

The high level of new indebtedn[ess] by the public sector has not yet fully a[f]fected interest rates on capital beca[use] the public sector last year borro[wed] DM23bn abroad and has continued t[his] practice this year.

This capital import by the state is [de]sirable as long as the current acc[ount] remains in the red and as long as [it] cannot be balanced by the influx of p[ri]vate capital.

But we must not overlook the fact t[hat] it is no longer just the higher oil p[rices] that account for the fact that more [and] more of our earnings being transfe[rred] abroad.

This is also due to the ever gro[wing] amount of money needed in the se[rvic]ing of foreign debts.

Former experience shows that pr[ivate] households step up their savings w[hen] times become uncertain.

But 1979/80 saw a stagnation he[re. It] remains to be seen how savers will r[eact] when their incomes are pared dow[n by] higher taxes next year and by cut[s] in certain allowances.

A surtax on income tax could pr[ove a] dangerous experiment because it w[ould] deprive credit and capital marke[ts of] some of the money needed.

The more convincing the go[vern]ment's efforts to put the budget o[n an] even keel without tricks and w[ithout] pandering to lobbyists and the be[nefici]aries of our excessive social security [sys]tem, the greater will be our chan[ces of] regaining confidence at home [and] abroad and the greater our prosp[ects of] strengthening the deutschemark [and] lowering interest rates.

Walter Traut[...]

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 6 Augu[st 1981])

[...]he constituent assembly of the di[...]rectly elected European parliament [...]held in Strasbourg two years ago on [...]ce's insistence.

[Th]at was tantamount to a French vic[tory] in the tug-of-war between the three [...]centres. At stake was the designa[tion] "Capital of Europe".

[Fr]ance won another tug-of-war last [mon]th when 187 Euro-MPs (118 against [...]7 abstentions) voted in a secret bal[lot] in favour of holding future plenary [sessi]ons in Strasbourg only.

[Lux]embourg was the loser and is now [...]g the Europarliament to the Euro[pean] Court of Justice, suing for breach [of t]reaty. Luxembourg insists that deci[sion]s on parliamentary sessions must [rest s]olely with the Council of Ministers.

[The]re are sound reasons for the Lu[xem]bourg motion. The Council of Min[isters] has always made a point of main[tainin]g the status quo based on two re[soluti]ons (of 1958 and 1965) which were [con]firmed by the heads of governments [...]urch.

[Ac]cording to the resolutions, the Sec[retar]iat of the Parliament is to be in Lu[xem]bourg while plenary sessions are to [be] primarily in Strasbourg.

[Ev]ery two or three months, the Euro[...] would go to Luxembourg while the [com]mittees have always been meeting in [Bru]ssels. This shuttling back and forth [has] earned the Europarliament the epit[het] "European circus".

[T]he shuttling is a costly business. A [...]t of some 800 Eurocrats complete [wi]th 60 tons of documents, archives and [si]milar material moves to Strasbourg for [ev]ery session.

Of course, the Luxembourg freight [for]warders who handle these periodic [m]oves rub their hands with glee.

These moves together with the rents [tha]t have to be paid in three places and [...] other expenses that go with this

■ THE EEC

Prestige, money at stake in inter-city issue

"circus" drain the budget of the Europarliament at a rate of DM50m a year — about 12 per cent of the total budget.

The arrangement also means 130 extra jobs.

Many Euro-MPs find this too much. The socialists were the first to speak up for a single place as far back as 1975. They and other protagonists of Brussels as the seat of the Europarliament argue:

- The proximity to the Council of Ministers and the Commission would enable parliament to exercise a tighter control;
- Travel to and from Brussels is easier and the city has more hotels and taxis;

The parliament's work would be streamlined and politically upgraded through the proximity of 130 embassies and 480 international organisations that have their seat in Brussels.

- The parliament could at last rid itself of its wallflower existence because the 350 Brussels correspondents who have their offices in the 6-storey Press Centre have better facilities and expense accounts than their opposite numbers in the other cities.

On the other hand, protagonists of Strasbourg, Luxembourg or a status quo argue that:

- The principle of division of power and control of the executive branch by the parliament is historically obsolete;
- The political substance of the MPs would be eroded by constant contact with Eurocrats;
- Europe is already geopolitically top heavy; and
- The European idea would reach the people much more easily if it were spread over several cities. Modern means of communication make this "multipolarisation" of European institutions quite feasible.

Most of the Strasbourg lobby are Christian Democrats, spearheaded by Kai-Uwe von Hassel who is a member of the relevant political committee.

But Chancellor Schmidt, Strasbourg Social Democrats say, is also secretly in favour of Strasbourg, though he cannot say so outright.

The Council of Ministers is rather chary of this independence drive on the part of the Europarliament. It constantly points to the fact that, under the terms of the Treaty of Rome, "the seats of the Community institutions are to be agreed upon by the governments of the member nations."

But behind all these sections, sub-sections and clauses there is a political poker game for prestige and money in progress.

Strasbourg Mayor Pierre Pflimlin went ahead with the construction of a "European borough" for the Europarliament.

And near the Europalace, a slew of high rise office and conference buildings has gone up, and the Euro-MPs are quite happy with their quarters. Official and private apartments for the staff are to follow.

Luxembourg has also tried to attract the Euro-MPs with fancy blueprints for new buildings. And the city fathers of Brussels have been doing the same.

The secret hope was that in the end it will be the parliament itself that will decide about its venue. In both Luxembourg and Brussels construction work has slowed down as has the rate at which leases are signed though prices have risen more quickly than anticipated.

Luxembourg has meanwhile dropped its ambitious "Centre 3000" project designed by the Frenchman Roger Taillibert who also designed the Montreal Olympic facilities. The estimated cost of the centre would have been DM250m — too much for Luxembourg.

So Luxembourg invested only DM90m in a new and less fancy building. It could not compete with the Strasbourg luxury apartments for Euro-MPs.

Luxembourg's government is determined to hang on to the 1,800 well paid Eurocrats working for the Europarliament Secretariat. They and their families represented a major economic factor for the small Grand Duchy.

Luxembourg will remain a "European City" come what may. It is the usual venue in April, June and October for the Council of Ministers' conferences, it is the seat of the European Court of Justice, the European Audit Office, the European Investment Bank and a number of other financial institutions.

If the Council of Ministers approves of the Europarliament resolution, the 1,500 official trips a month would be cut down and some 200 of the 800 itinerant Eurocrats would stay put in Strasbourg.

Luxembourg would not be overtaxed by it financially because the Grand Duchy would be awarded some of the institutions as a compensation. But the odds for the designation as Capital of Europe favour Strasbourg.

Jürgen Liminski

(Die Welt, 7 August 1981)

Continued from page 1

[...]ing that the United States seriously [...]ed to negotiate.

[If] Mr Brezhnev really were in fear and [tremb]ling about keeping the peace, as [Will]y Brandt reported from Moscow, [then] surely the obvious course would be [to] put President Reagan's offer of talks [to th]e test.

[Bu]t that would also be putting Mr [Brez]hnev's desire for peace to the test, [...] more intensively and in a possibly [mor]e far-reaching manner than ever be[fore].

[M]r Reagan has offered more than a [...] slowdown or limitation in the [arms] race. What he wants is a strictly [contr]olled reduction in stockpiles and [p]ower.

[Is] it altogether absurd to presume that [this] might be less to the Soviet liking [than] it need be to that of the United [State]s?

[In] the final analysis the Soviet [Unio]n's world power status has so far [bee]n almost exclusively on Moscow's [milit]ary potential, whereas that of the [Unit]ed States and the West has depend[ed m]ore on economic potential.

[If] it is true that in the nuclear age [peace] must be indivisible, so must de[tente] as one of its prerequisite.

[Th]e Soviet Union must thus acknow[ledg]e at long last and with no ideologi[cal r]eservations its share in responsibility [for] peace all over the world.

[T]he Europeans would then be Russia's [...]and best friends and helpers. One [can]'t but wonder, as in the past: Will the [Kreml]in never learn?

Hans Schmitz

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 15 August 1981)

Pressure on to slash back costs

Member nations of the EEC, above all Bonn, are pressing Brussels to apply the same tough economy measures that the individual countries are having to make.

Bonn is absolutely determined to bring about cutbacks, It was this that has prompted the president of the Commission, Gaston Thorn, to warn against "excessive thrift" by Germany.

Bonn, he said, should not go overboard, though he agreed that cutbacks were, on the whole, necessary.

The Commission president still regards Germany as the Community's economic locomotive — and rightly so. Should this locomotive run out of steam all other members would suffer. Bonn's guiding principle should therefore be "cut back but don't choke off".

The Commission fears that several member nations will be in no position to introduce the same drastic cutbacks that are contemplated in Germany and of course the Commission is greatly worried about the effects Bonn's new thriftiness will have on Community coffers.

Germany is the EEC's biggest net payer.

Chancellor Schmidt has repeatedly reaffirmed that Bonn was prepared to continue playing this role but that there was a limit to how much it could pay.

Certainly the payments could not continue to rise at the rate they have been doing.

According to the 1982 draft budget, Germany will pay DM7b net.

This is the amount (it equals about one-quarter of Germany's current balance of payments deficit) that will exceed benefits.

Germany's net contribution this year will be about DM6bn compared with DM5bn the year before.

Britain is the only other net payer. The French get back roughly what they put in. All other member states profit. And this is how it should be for the economically weak like Italy, Ireland and Greece.

There is a dispute in progress in Brussels over whether Britain with its growing oil revenues should be regarded as one of these members.

In any event, it is obvious that under the present financing setup Britain is at a disadvantage inasmuch as it barely benefits from the Agricultural Fund, the biggest item in the Community budget.

As a result, London was granted some relief in May 1980 by reducing its Community contributions by a total of DM6.6bn for 1980 and 1981.

But Britain wants this relief to continue in the years to come; and the EEC Commission in its June report on long term agricultural and financial reforms endorses this wish.

Brussels argues — rightly — that payments into and benefits from the EEC Fund provide a lopsided picture. Thus, for instance, the advantages Germany, the biggest exporter among the EEC countries, derives from the mammoth duty-free Community market are disregarded in the tug-of-war over the budget.

Chancellor Schmidt is not exactly pleased with the report which contains no clear undertaking that German contributions should not rise limitlessly.

Bonn stresses that Community nations with per capita incomes similar to those in Germany (the Benelux countries and Denmark) benefit from the Fund. This, Bonn argues, must be changed by making these countries share in the burdens.

But this would call for financial reforms within the Community. Such reforms are planned but the discussion on them has not progressed very far.

Experts doubt that the next EEC summit in London in late November will bring any concrete results, contrary to British wishes.

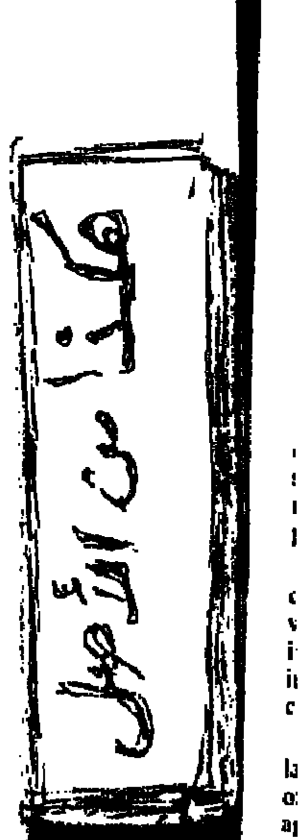
In any event, the reforms cannot start with the draft EEC budget for 1982 which is now under debate because this does not provide for any major reshuffling of the money that flows back from thj Community Fund.

Of the DM55bn, two-thirds have been earmarked (as in previous years) for agriculture, so the agricultural bias remains.

The other items on the expenditure side, especially for regional and social measures (promotion of economically underdeveloped areas and job generating), have been pared down considerably by the finance ministers, despite the fact that the EEC Commission had planned on increases of between 25 and 40 per cent.

Hans-Peter Ott

(Bremer Nachrichten, 6 August 1981)



AGRICULTURE

Farming successfully without help from chemicals

Farmer Rudolf Schilling decided to stop using chemical fertilisers and feedstuffs four years ago.

His calves were suffering from infertility and other disorder, his cow had inflamed udders.

He tried the usual pharmaceutical products and this, for a time, had an effect. But soon his cows were sick again.

Herr Schilling then sold all his feedstuffs and chemical fertilisers to other farmers and dumped his week-killers, fungicides and pesticides at a special rubbish tip.

Since then, he has used no chemical fertilisers or feedstuffs.

And his cows are thriving. Frau Schilling is also delighted, and she does not care what the scientists say.

Their 22 cows produce 5,000 litres of milk per year — as much as when they were using artificial feedstuffs and fertilisers.

The Schillings whose farm is near Rothenburg ob der Tauber, employ an apprentice. From January their son will also work full-time and maybe later one of their two daughters.

"Until then we'll have to see how we get on," says Schilling.

The switch to more natural methods of farming has not reduce the work load. Occasionally, Herr Schilling has to hire casual workers to weed his fields.

But not all the wild flowers and weeds that grow between the maize, corn and turnips are harmful. Indeed he himself sows onions between his rows of swedes, yellow clover and field beans among the maize and peas among the oats. Plants grow better in a system of mixed cultivation, he says.

Root excretions from one plant help others to grow. As for pests such as carrot and onion flies, they keep one another in check.

In fact, Schilling has few problems with insect parasites.

He does not have any monocultures, so that none of these insects are very numerous. And if one weed becomes dangerously prolific, this, according to Schilling, is a sign that there is something wrong with the soil. Thistles, for example, grow where the ground is too hard. And maize will not grow in this kind of soil.

Schillings colleagues use chemicals to combat the thistles. He merely uses a special implement to loosen up the soil.

Thistles proliferate because of modern methods of agriculture. Heavy tractors stamp the soil down and it becomes hard. This is why Schilling only uses his tractor for very heavy work.

Lighter work such as sowing and ploughing is done by two horses which he bought when he switched to natural methods.

If despite everything a particular weed gets too abundant, he burns it off with a propane gas flame. Other imperfections do not trouble him much: "What does it matter if a stalk of maize or corn is a little bit higher or lower than the others.

"People aren't all the same height, either. You have to study, think things over and not work against nature. Then everything will be all right".

A return to chemical methods is unthinkable. "That would be irresponsible," he says.

And economically there are no reasons for such a return. The Schillings have had to experiment considerably with various kinds of corn because the most commonly used strains are those that thrive most on chemical fertilisers — "and benefit the chemicals industry."

But the Schillings are still not doing badly. After a difficult three-year initial phase, their corn yield is now 40 double metric hundredweight per hectare, ten less than before. But this is compensated for by savings of DM15,000 a year on fertilisers. And a local mill pays above-average prices for "bio-corn."

Häns Muser from Nehdorf in Bavaria has been using biological-dynamic methods for the past 15 years — and is doing very nicely.

In response to his customers' demands, he grows a high proportion of root crops — which means that he has about a third more weeding to do than farmers using conventional methods.

His customers — almost all of them private individuals — come to his farm and buy just about everything he produces: corn in half-hundredweight sacks, potatoes, beetroot, carrots herbs. Two bakeries in the Nehdorf area recently asked if he could supply them with bio-corn but Muser had to tell them that he was booked up.

Muser's direct marketing cuts out the middleman. He has no transport costs, yet his prices are almost as high as those charged in health foods. So his profit margin is considerable. There is a potentially huge market for biologically-produced food. Despite this, there are only about 1000 "alternative" farmers in West Germany today.

Rudolf Schilling . . . 'work with nature, not against it.' (Photo: Jürn Praetorius)

The Environment and Nature Protection Association (BUND) attributes this to the difficult transitional phase, for which the state pays no subsidies whatsoever.

BUND agriculture expert Hubert Weiger believes that agriculture could be heading for a disaster.

Larger farms are continually expanding at the expense of smaller ones. Small farmers are going out of business. Monoculture is common, and this requires intensive use of chemicals. Weiger is bitterly critical of the German National Association of Farmers, who continue to preach the use of chemical methods. He says that they only represent the interests of big farmers.

The Biological Institute, part of the Ministry of Agriculture, is meant to test chemicals for possibly harmless effects. These tests are indirectly financed by donations from the chemical industry.

Weiger: "It's diabolical."

Jürn G. Praetorius

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 5 August 1981)

Fertilisers a 'threat to ground water'

Nitrates in the ground water are endangering water supplies in the Lower Rhine area.

A 500-page survey by a Bochum scientist, Peter Obermann, establishes a link between nitrogen fertilisers and nitrate levels in ground water.

Obermann analysed four waterworks in his report which is being studied by agricultural officials.

Two or three kilometres south of Bocholt: In the midst of fields of vegetables a red brick house — a farm.

It is hot. The automatic water sprinkers are languid jets of water over leeks, red cabbage, parsley and spinach.

The spinach has sprouted for the third time this year already. In a few weeks, farmer Hermann Vehns, 44, will be selling it, to a company with which, like 54 other vegetable farmers in the Bocholt area, he has a contract.

Since 1963 Vohns has been growing spinach and cabbage as his main crops. He cultivates his 25 hectares as intensively as possible, using uses seven hundredweight of straight fertilisers and five hundredweight of nitrate fertilisers per hectare.

These are the amounts stipulated by the company, Langnese-Iglo, he says.

Not far from his farm is another red brick building with narrow high windows, Mussum waterworks.

In 1910, when the works were built, water supply experts were enthusiastic because there was a lot of water, and it was pure.

By 1970, this had changed. Mussum had to stop supplying water for a time. The last stoppage was on Eastern Monday of this year. Of the waterworks' 23 wells, eight are now disused.

Until 1962, Mussum was the only source of water supplies for the town of Bocholt, which has a population of 66,000.

The problems are caused by nitrates, the salts of nitric acid. In 1910, the concentration was only 15 milligrammes per litre. Now the level is 130 milligrammes per litre.

According to EEC regulations, the nitrate limit for water supplies is 90 milligrammes per litre. From 1982 onwards it will go down to 50 milligrammes.

The Bocholt waterworks experts can only guess at the cause of this pollution. Dietmar Wallisch, technical director of Bochum Department of Works, suspected the use of nitrate fertilisers in the Mussum ground water area.

In the course of the seventies, these suspicions hardened. In South Baden, nitrate concentrations of up to 138 milligrammes per litre were found in ground water. Agriculture and viniculture is very intensive in this area and chemical fertilisers are used. The Freiburg Health Office warned eleven parishes not to allow small children to drink tap water.

Wherever nitrate fertilisers are used in intensive cultivation of light soils, nitrate levels in the water are high: in the wine-growing areas of the Rhine, Moselle, Neckar and Main, around Mainz, Cologne and the lower Rhine.

Recent tests have shown that our metabolism converts nitrates to carcinogenic nitrosamins. And high nitrate concentrations can lead to cyanosis, which can even lead to death by suffocation.

However, the farmers' lobby still refuses to believe that there is any connection between the use of nitrates in fertilisers and pollution of ground water.

In a television programme in 1980, a Farmers' Association spokesman said: "Correctly used nitrate fertilisers do not lead to a deterioration of ground water."

In September 1978, Göttingen Professor of Agricultural Chemistry, Professor Erwin Welte, concluded: "Nitrate fertilisers do not represent a threat to the purity of water." And the Association of Agricultural Testing and Research Institutes even went so far as to say that polluted ground problem was "not an agricultural problem."

Meantime, the use of chemical fertilisers is increasing. In the past 40 years, the use of nitrogen fertilisers has increased fourfold, and use per hectare has increased sixfold. This means that on average the German farmer today puts almost two and a half hundredweight of nitrogen fertiliser on a hectare.

In 1964/65, he only used half as much. An intensively cultivated fields have up to six hundredweight of nitrogen fertiliser per hectare per year put onto them.

Bochum hydrogeologist Peter Obermann has now published a report finally settling the controversy between farmers and water experts — in favour of the latter.

The report — now being studied in the Düsseldorf Ministry of Agriculture — shows that in the four waterworks analysed there was a clear connection between use of nitrogen fertilisers and nitrate levels in ground water.

Obermann found up to 242 milligrammes of nitrate in one litre of ground water under intensively cultivated fields.

In his analysis, Obermann found water that had seeped into the ground an average of fifteen years ago. But the more intensively nitrogen fertilisers are used, the less the self-purifying effect of water.

The Mussum waterworks now have no choice but to lay expensive pipes and mix their polluted water with cleaner water from other areas. This will cost DM3.5m. Removal of nitrates from water is not economically possible on a large scale. A task for the future.

Reinhold Böhmer

(Vorwärts, 13 August 1981)

■ EDUCATION

Natural science students 'ignorant of basics in mathematics, physics'

Natural science students at German universities are often incapable of solving elementary mathematical and physical problems, according to a published study.

The study, commissioned by the German Society of Physics and published by the University of Bonn, reports on tests taken in the winter term 1979/80 by 3,800 physics majors. The tests were aimed at gauging students knowledge of the fundamentals of mathematics and physics.

The results are dismal. The average student majoring in physics could only solve 49 per cent of the mathematical problems and 42 per cent of the physics problems.

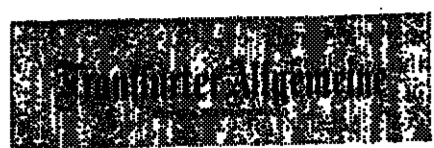
Only one in ten were able to solve two thirds or more of the 94 problems.

These performances are all the more disturbing in view of the fact that the students had obtained high average marks in the Abitur examination.

The German Society of Physics' conclusion: There is "an appreciable number" of natural science students whose knowledge of mathematics and physics is inadequate for the study of these subjects at university.

Freiburg Professor of Physics Spehl recently caused a minor sensation by walking out of his own lecture on "Physics for Chemists, Biologists and Geographers."

The results of a test he gave led him



to conclude that most of his students were "innumerate" in mathematics and physics.

He said he felt like an old-fashioned village schoolmaster teaching all ages and levels of ability at the same time.

In a lecture hall which had been graced by Nobel prize-winner Mössbauer, Spehl complained, he had to teach natural scientists who did not even know roughly how much electricity an oven plate uses.

He was constantly afraid of boring the better students and going too fast for the weaker ones. He got more and more nervous as students got up and walked out of the lecture.

Spehl's dilemma is shared by many of his teaching colleagues who are constantly complaining of low standards.

Should we conclude that these ill-prepared students ought not to be taking university courses? Not at all.

Friedrich Krause and Anastasia Reiners-Logothetidou, authors of the report, say that universities should hold refresher and revision courses for first year students of natural sciences.

This would mean that the university would have to make up for the gaps left by the schools. And if school courses are not reorganised and the standards required in the Abitur are not raised, universities will have to hold more and more such courses.

This would increase the length of university courses and keep students even longer in their academic ivory towers than at present.

The University Teachers' Association and the Grammar School Teachers' Association have protested against this trend. They insist that it is up to the schools to provide their pupils with the fundamental knowledge they need for their university courses.

Some of these students are not incapable but simply ill-prepared and ill-taught. Those who had little physics and maths teaching in the upper forms of the grammar school performed worse in the test than the others.

Students of medicine — often regarded as the academic elite — fared appallingly in the test. Three out of four had had hardly any physics at school — and it showed in their results.

Studies in Aachen and Göttingen over several years have shown that the poor performances of medical students throughout the country in intermediate examinations can be attributed to gaps school education.

The question whether the reformed sixth form courses enable pupils to study any university subject is acutely embarrassing to our politicians.

Certainly most pupils with Abitur are equipped to study the subjects in which they have specialised. For example, students who had specialised in mathematics and physics at school performed better than the rest.

But they still did not reach the standards required of students majoring in these disciplines — even though their school courses often covered part of the first year university curriculum.

The most useful part of the Bonn University report is the section recommending improvements in the school curricula which could help to eliminate this problem.

Some beyond even the best teaching

But there are some pupils whom not even the best teaching could help. Their capacities are too limited for school sixth forms, let alone for university courses.

The proportion of these weak students is likely to be higher in SPD-governed *Länder* than in CDU-CSU-governed *Länder*, if only because the SPD Education Ministers allow more pupils to pass the Abitur than their CDU-CSU colleagues.

Krause and Reiners-Logothetidou in their report work on the basis of the same pass-rate in all *Länder*, completely ignoring the poorest students from the SPD-governed *Länder*.

Is this statistical trick acceptable in a government-financed study. The whole of Germany will probably laugh at this transparent piece of legerdemain.

In fact we ought to be weeping at the high proportion of weak students in our universities.

Kurt Reumann

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 10 August 1981)

'Widespread' illiteracy

There are probably 500,000 illite[…] people in the Federal Republi[c …] Germany.

The Education Minister of N[…] Rhine-Westphalia, Jürgen Girgen[sohn …] estimates that in that *Land* one per[…] of the population cannot read or wri[te …]

If this reflects the national figur[e …] a million across the nation are c[…] with varying degrees of success, wi[…] without the written word.

Illiterates are astonishingly cle[ver …] hiding their difficulty.

Many manage to pursue careers [in] spite themselves, although mostly [in] jobs where reading and writing ar[e …] so important.

But even manual jobs require rea[…] Often colleagues are asked to rea[d …] them.

Mislaid spectacles are a common [excuse …]

Continued on page 11

What makes a teacher smile?

Schoolteachers who buck against [the] system are less happy in their [jobs] than their more conformist collea[gues …] says a psychologist.

But the more accommodating tea[cher] can suffer from the monotony of [his] routine if he or she lacks commitme[nt …]

There are among the findings of Jürgen Merz of Bamberg Univer[sity's] department of psychology.

He says in a study that the c[…] teachers are those who object to [the] pressures and restrictions of the tr[adi]tional school system.

Dr Merz and his assistants tes[ted …] teachers in the sample. They found th[at] there was a significant difference in [the] values of "satisfied" and "unsatisfi[ed"] teachers.

Teachers who put more emphasis [on] sticking to the curriculum, keeping c[…] and discipline, showing respect to c[ol]leagues derived more satisfaction fr[om] their jobs than the rebels.

"Satisfied" teachers tended to exp[ect] higher standards from themselves [and] their pupils.

They were more likely to want to [set] an example for their pupils, to [want] them to be more compassionate [to] help them, to give them more self-[con]fidence.

They laid great emphasis on the [need] to teach their pupils to think logi[cally] and systematically. And they put co[rre]spondingly less emphasis on such [things] as making pupils critical of autho[rity …] improving their creativity or ma[king] them more independent.

The study showed that the sa[tisfied] teachers tended to hold more conse[rva]tive views of society. Older teach[ers …] more experienced teachers, tended to [be] more satisfied than younger teach[ers …] women teachers to be more satis[fied] than men.

Professor Merz says that the com[mit]ted but non-conformist and progre[ssive] teacher tended to be unhappy with [the] school system.

But he adds that even "conform[ist …"] only get real job satisfaction whe[n they] are truly committed and tryi[ng to] "form" their pupils. Without [this] commitment even the conformi[st tea]cher suffered from the monotony [of …] routine.

Rolf D[…]

(Nordwest Zeitung, 11 August [1981])

THE ARTS

Hopper juxtaposed in contrast of styles

[O]ne of the curious features of the Westkunst exhibition in Cologne is [a r]oom in which the work of German [pain]ter Josef Albers is juxtaposed with [the] hard, realistic paintings of the American Edward Hopper (1881—1967), [who]se work is only now coming to be appreciated in Europe.

[Al]bers is a colour theorist who paints overlapping rectangles, whereas [Hopp]er is a representative of American [Sach]lichkeit.

[Hi]s seascapes, townscapes and interi[ors a]lso have something artificial about [the]m — a vision of isolation and soli[tude]. Could it be that both artists' work [is ex]emplary of its kind?

[No]t far from Cologne, in the Düssel[dorf] *Kunsthalle*, a major retrospective of [Hop]per's work is being held. It consists [of] over 200 paintings, water colours, [draw]ings and studies.

[A]nd an exhibition of Hopper's early [work] was held this spring at the [We]stphälisches *Landesmuseum* in Mün[ster].

[M]ost of these works come from the [Whit]ney Museum of American Art in [New] York, to which Hopper's work was [be]queathed. Some of the other exhibits [co]me from private and public collec[tio]ns in the USA.

Some of Hopper's early work can also [be] seen in Düsseldorf, drawings and [wa]ter colours from his period in Paris [be]tween 1906 and 1910. During this [tim]e he studied the Impressionists, who [we]re to have a lasting influence on his [work].

He also discovered al fresco painting in Paris and the Ile de France, and compared this experience with the optics and modes of seeing in the American milieus which had fascinated him since his childhood — coastscapes, ships, ports, small town houses.

Hopper objected to critics stressing the element of isolation in his works.

But our later perception of the American nightmare forces us to see things differently. Isolation and lack of communication, the great theme of contemporary social behaviour, cannot be overlooked in his work.

Hopper went looking for the classical centres of isolation — bare hotel rooms, theatres and cinemas. He even injects this quality of isolation into houses and objects, coastal houses, lighthouses, garages on lonely roads.

As the Düsseldorf exhibition underlines, Hopper was a portrait painter from his early years. Later he worked for many years as an illustrator in the USA and was associated with the Ash Can School — an observer of lower middle class and porletarian New York, of the slums and their dismal interiors.

His human figures, in the course of his artistic development, become mere ciphers, figures absorbed by the coldness and hostility of the environment to which they are exposed, helpless.

Hopper's interiors are icy and forbidding. Even the cosiest idyll of theatre and cinema interiors is revealed to be mere deception.

Particularly characteristic of Hopper is his cool, calculating use of light, almost always artificial, or shining in sharp contrast to the surrounding darkness through doors or cracks. Thus even a potentially warming sunbeam is made to seem artificial.

The impressive Düsseldorf exhibition — unlike those in London and Amsterdam — which were arranged according subjects — is chronological, enabling us to trace his artistic development. We are given an insight into Hopper's methodical approach, his studies and his different versions of paintings and motifs.

The catalogue, published by the Whitney Museum, is a worthy accompaiment to thus superb exhibition.

Wolfgang Stauch-von Quitzow

(Nordwest Zeitung, 1 August 1981)

Continued from page 10

[…]The problem of illiteracy has been re[cogn]ised as such recently and more and [mor]e illiterates are abandoning the pre[tence] of literacy and seeking help.

[Th]eir illiteracy is due in many cases [not] so much to stupidity or laziness as [to] circumstances.

[In] the last years of the war, for in[stan]ce, there were huge gaps in many [you]ngsters' education.

[Te]achers tended often to ignore the [slow]er pupils with reading and writing [diff]iculties. Or again children from [prob]lem families or in homes did not [get] the support and help they needed to [mast]er the art of reading and writing.

[In] West Germany, a modern indus[trial] state which was one of the first to [intro]duce compulsory schooling, politi[cians] and society as a whole could not, [until] recently, comprehend that there [are] between 400,000 and 500,000 illiter[ate a]dults in this country.

[Th]e statisticians could not track them [dow]n of course, so no official statistics [were] kept.

[H]err Girgensohn says there is not [even] an internationally accepted defini[tion] of what illiteracy is.

[U]NESCO define it as the basic know[ledg]e and capacity to read and write and [so] to cope in one's environment. [Tho]se who met this requirement were [func]tionally literate.

[W]hat can be done to help?

[In] North Rhine-Westphalia, it is the [job] of the evening classes. According to [He]rr Girgensohn, there are 26 towns [and] districts in the *Land* providing such [cour]ses.

Hans Wüllenweber

(Mannheimer Morgen, 1 August 1981)



Hopper's 'Summer Interior'

The first time for Davies' 'The Last Time'

The first real premiere for a long time in the Hamburg *Kunstverein* is a particularly fascinating one: it comprises graphic and sculptural work of John Davies.

This is the first time an exhibition devoted exclusively to this 35-year-old Englishman has been held on the Continent.

Up to now, only a few examples of Davies' work have been exhibited in this country — at the documenta in Kassel in 1977 and at the Hamburg *Ein guter Realist muss alles erfinden* exhibition in 1979.

The exhibition, organised and financed by the British Coulcil, consists of 70 exhibits from the past ten years. From Hamburg the exhibition will go on to the Wilhelm Lehmbruck Museum in Duisburg and the *Badischer Kunstverein* in Karlsruhe.

The focal point is Davies' life-size sculptures, most of them groups of figures. The first is a group of sculptures entitled *The Last Time*.

Two men, one wearing wearing horn or leaf-shaped nose masks crawl along a chalk circle. A third sits holding a mirror.

The final exhibit is a group of four life-sized sculptures, with one man sitting piggy back on the other. All the figures are men wearing long trousers and naked from the waist up.

Between these there are figures such as the fruitpicker, or the man with the bucket and several kneeling, sitting or prostrate figures — all men.

Davies' early polyester figures were extremely naturalistic. They wore real clothes, shoes and hair. The only element of alienation was the nose masks in Dadaist or Commedia dell'Arte style.

The style of Davies' later figures is simpler. The heads are hairless, the torsos and suits dust-coloured.

They are altogether more stylised. This is also true of the numerous busts which constitute the second main attraction of the exhibition.

Davies' male figures are usually in close physical contact yet at the same time petrified and strangely isolated. They never look at one another, they remain alone even in the group.

Stylistically, Davies occupies a halfway position between George Segal and Douane Hanson. His sculptures are more naturalistic than Segal's, more stylised than Hanson.

Davies, who came to Hamburg to arrenge the exhibition, is extremely shy and reserved. His works are meant to speak for themselves.

And they do just that — by their enigmatic realism, which rivets the contemplator.

H. Th. Flemming

(Die Welt, 6 August 1981)

Hopper's 'Chairs Car' (Photos: Städtische Kunsthalle Düsseldorf)



Davies . . . life-size sculptures. (Photo: Kunstverein Hamburg)

■ MEDICINE

Brain surgery advances from days of drill-and-hope

Last century surgeons opened the skull without any clear idea of brain pathology.

All their knowledge was from autopsies when contusions, inflammation and unusual growths were linked with specific disorders.

Despite this rudimentary knowledge, 19th century surgeons frequently drilled into the skull to relieve headaches — especially in Britain and France.

The instruments used closely resembled the usual range of tools found in a carpentry shop. It was this type of *"therapy" that gave neurosurgery* a bad name.

The humble beginnings of the profession were recalled during the seventh world congress of neurosurgeons in Munich. *About 800 papers were delivered.*

The development of the X-ray enabled neurosurgeons to diagnose pathological brain deformations directly. Pneumo-encephalography, for instance, reveals defects in the brain structure while angiography, another X-ray technique, enables the surgeon to see the blood vessels in the brain.

Another major step forward was made around the middle of this century with the discovery of the electro-encephalogram (EEG).

Since the messages transmitted by the 100 billion nerve cells of the brain are electrical impulses, they can be measured with the help of an EEG.

This enables the doctor to pinpoint defects in the brain's electrical activity.

And then came the decisive breakthrough in the 1970s: computer tomography. This technique makes use of X-rays and computors to show the structure of the brain in cross sections — and that with unprecedented clarity.

Had such modern diagnostic methods and surgery technique existed in the last century, people like Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy would not have died at the age of 38.

The great composer suffered from recurring brain haemorrhages, probably due to malformed blood vessels. Surgeons could neither diagnose nor repair the defects.

Computer tomography now enables doctors to diagnose changes in the brain structure and to differentiate between benign and malign tumours.

The *new technique enables them to* open the skull at exactly the right spot; and improved anaesthesis methods make it possible to operate on a relaxed brain which greatly helps the restoration of brain functions.

Modern cortisone preparations now make it possible to treat swellings of the brain and antibiotics have greatly reduced the danger of infection during surgery.

Despite all this progress, it is still impossible fully to restore the former functioning of the brain following severe head injuries and subsequent brain surgery.

The patient usually remains handicapped in one way or another — no matter how successful the operation. This is due to the enormous complexity of the brain.

Neurosurgery clinics like that of *Würzburg University* carry out some 600 emergency brain operations a year.

The summer months usually see a preponderance of older patients who have fallen off a tree or a ladder during *fruit harvesting. Another reason* for the great number of head injuries in the summer is reckless diving into shallow water — mostly by young people.

20 to 30 per cent of the patients are accounted for by traffic *accidents. Most* of these people are young motor cyclists who failed to wear a helmet.

But even with a helmet severe head injuries are common among motor cyclists. This is because modern machines travel so fast that the helmet no longer gives adequate protection.

Neurosurgeons also complain about the poor design of some crash helmets.

Anneliese Furtmayr-Schuh

(Die Zeit, 31 July 1981)

Discolouration of skin a clue to cancer

A skin cancer known as malign melanoma is one of the most deadly cancers. A good half of all cases are fatal.

Twenty of every 100,000 people have the cancer, three times as many as 20 years ago, says Professor Illig, of Giessen.

His dermatology clinic diagnoses an average of eight cases a week.

Most victims come to have skin spots examined, and in six per cent of cases *melanoma is discovered.*

Survival chances depend on how thick the tumour is and how deeply it has penetrated the skin.

Early diagnosis is essential, so a doctor should be seen if the skin becomes discoloured.

More and more cases are being caught early enough to cure.

The present rate of early diagnosis is about 23 per cent, and the aim is to reach 50 per cent, the rate in Queensland, Australia.

Australia has the greatest incidence of melonoma in the world.

Systematic early diagnosis is hampered by the *widespread view that melanoma* develops from skin discolourations that have existed for a long time and that give no indication of being about to turn malignant.

This has led to the dangerous idea that such skin blemishes should not be removed because the necessary surgery could make them malignant.

The fact, however, is that most melanomas occur as new blemishes (primarily males).

Their growth period ranges from a few months to several years, when they spread horizontally before beginning their penetration of the tissue.

If they are caught before they have exceeded a thickness of 0.76mm and if they are removed by surgery the prospects of a cure are virtually 100 per cent.

Experts can easily differentiate between a benign skin spot and a budding melanoma. Whenever a doctor suspects melanoma he must remove the whole of the spot rather than make an exploratory cut which could lead to the spreading of cancer cells.

Benign spots rarely turn into a malignant *melanoma, says Professor Illig.* This type of transformation occurs only in a few specific types of skin blemishes that are easily identifiable.

The most common types of melanoma that account for about 80 per cent of the desease are dignosed with an accuracy rate of up to 90 per cent at the Giessen clinic.

Only nodular melanomas that grow inward rather than spreading over the skin are hard to identify because they are easily mistaken for benign moles.

All this needs early diagnosis if the close to 100 per cent rate of cure is to be maintained.

Doctors must pay particular attention to black spots on the feet, the thighs and the face — especially in fair skinned people.

Moles that develop on the back are naturally easily overlooked and should be looked for specifically.

Another thing that should be watched out for are moles or warts that suddently become itchy or develop a tendency to bleed, become wet or change their shape and become bigger.

This usually happens where clothing chafes the *skin. When this occurs* a doctor should be seen instantly.

Only early diagnosis of melanoma secures a complete cure.

Wolfgang Cyran

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 4 August 1981)

Schizophrenic students' huge suicide rate

Eighteen per cent of schizop university students examined study killed themselves, accordi Tübingen University doctors.

The huge suicide rate is the m vealing finding in the report.

Of the 98 in the sample, 18 university, 42 have dropped out 20 have completed their studies.

The survey, compiled in the ty's psychiatric clinic by J. Ged J. Stief, found that overall performance was poor.

The report is aimed at which school of thought should lowed in the education of schiz nics.

Until the 60's conventional psychiatry held that schizophrenia not be cured without leaving the with a permanent disability.

As a result, psychiatrists maint that it was better to attempt to tate young high school or uni students and apprentices who de schizophrenia at a lower level tha for which they were trained.

For instance: those who went t versity should make do with an a ticeship; those who went to (academic) high school should with graduating from a *Realschu* type of education in Germany th to vocational training).

Then, in the 1960s and 1970s chiatrists decided that it was schizophrenics continued the ed or training they had begun and plete it once the disorder *had imp*

But there has been little to which view is right.

The high drop-out rate reported the Tübingen doctors is probably due the symptoms that extend beyond acute psychological crisis and ma *themselves in* communication pro and small perceptory disturbances.

Even so, schizophrenic students frequently determined to complete course of study. In view of this, p *trists should try to persuade* stude discontinue their studies if they been unsuccessful during several secutive semeters.

The survey provides important formation on the *position* of schiz renic university students. There is to indicate that they would have difficulties in other types of training

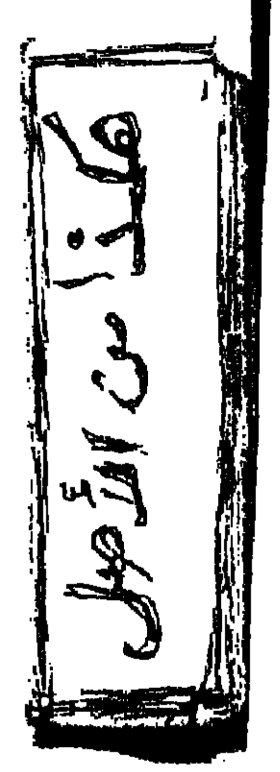
The study says nothing about treatment the students received what vocational guidance they given.

This leaves it open whether the tic treatment, sound counselling selective rehabilitation measures prove scholastic peformance and the suicide rate. There is much cate that they could.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine für Deutschland, 29 Ju

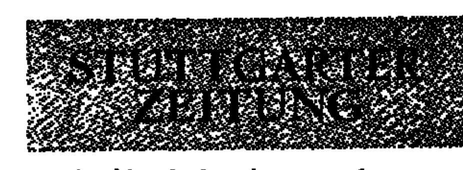
Correction

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE published on page 12 a photo a project in which waste heat Neurath coal-fired power used in a hothouse. The power *is not, as indicated* in the nuclear. In addition, the photo has no connection with the anying article about work department of radio-agronomy Jülich nuclear research institute.



■ SOCIETY

The Rocker Reverend rides again



Dilapidated housing, youth unemployment, a high proportion of foreigners and the resultant development of gangs all have a close link in Frankfurt to juvenile delinquency.

In Britain, lack of work and hope and social humiliation have kindled the riots there.

In Germany, second generation foreigners who have grown up without values and religion in the despair of social ghettos are the powder keg of an explosive situation.

Someone who is trying to help in Frankfurt is a 39-year-old minister, Bernd-Jürgen Hamann.

The Reverend Hamann is somewhat unconventional, and made a name for himself in his native Berlin as the *Rockerpfarrer*, or Rocker Minister.

For 11 years he and his motorbike were part of the Phoenix Rockers in Berlin and his work received much publicity.

At one stage he said he was going to leave "the family" because he was growing too old for them. He was threatened.

His reputation arrived in Frankfurt with him. Shortly after beginning his introductory sermon in Peterskirche, a group of young Turks, Greeks and Yugoslavs carrying a huge bunch of flowers interrupted the service.

They walked to the altar and presented the flowers to Rev. Hamann.

It was the beginning of his first big problem in Frankfurt: the group had an ulterior motive and the flowers were just a down payment.

"See to it that we keep our house in Wiesenhütten Strasse," the told Hamann in front of the congregation.

"Make sure that tramps and counsellors for the Greeks are kept out."

They were referring to the International Youth Centre of the Protestant Church in the middle of the city's notorious central railway station area.

At issue were proposals to allow a Greek counselling centre to use space and provision for helping tramps. Feelings were running high over the question and it had been a cause of riots with police.

A few days later Rev. Hamann went with the youths to the centre. They expected him to become their advocate.

But he didn't. He said that half the building should be used by the counselling service because of the shortage of space for social work.

In this area, peep shows pay 10 times as much for rent as social institutions.

Relations between the youths and the minister went sour and the dispute eventually became so bad that the entire centre was closed down.

It is now to reopen, with new social workers and members. The counselling service is to be a guest tenant.

The proportion of foreigners in this area is 70 per cent. Clashes between police and youths have been common place since last summer.

Main cause was the youth centre issue.

Gangs of up to 100 have been making headlines in Frankfurt's press. Some are said to be responsible for up to 600 break-ins before they are finally brought to book.

The central railway station area is also notorious for its child prostitution and its 15-year-old heroin pushers.

In addition, the youth authority in the borough has shown itself to have an abhorrence of preventive and innovative social work.

A youth project involving the police was discontinued in 1978.

The deputy head of the Frankfurt Youth Authority, Wilhelm Schneider: "A youth policeman must have the confidence of the youngsters in his precinct. Yet by the same token he is duty bound to report crimes and misdemeanours. And it is this dual function that causes an intolerable inner conflict."

Such clashes of interests are common in this type of youth work where the social worker or pastor does not wait for the young people to come to him but goes to them.

Summing up his 11 year's experience as a youth worker who is an integrated part of the group, Rev. Hamann puts it this way: "You can't just play act. You have to be a genuine part of the group if you're to survive. Otherwise they won't take you seriously."

Based on his experience he calls for a type of juvenile social work that combines conventional and experimental methods. The average German cannot even imagine the lot of the second generation foreigners who have grown up in this country. Take the case of a 13-year-old Turkish girl who recently came to the IYC asking for shelter. She said: "I don't want to go back home. There I have to look after the children of my two sisters and do all the housekeeping on top of it. My father won't let me go to school. He locks me in... but I'm no nursemaid nor am I my father's slave. I want to go to school and learn a trade."

The Reverend Hamann . . . on to the streets. (Photo

98 per cent of the Turks in the central station borough are dropouts — not of choice but because their parents stop them from going to school.

Rev. Hamann does street work wheneable conflict between the generations in the making here. Children and parents become strangers to each other as if they lived on different continents."

Sefyi Özgen, a Turkish social worker, sees it this way: "They grow up without values, religion and prospects for the future. And even should they get a job they can only work as unskilled labourers."

A decision is to be made by this autumn as to whether Frankfurt, the ... with the highest ratio of foreigners, ... have street workers for its juvenile ... work. Street workers go to people ... stead of waiting for them in the offices.

Rev. Hamann do street work ... ver his desk job as coordinator of ... testant youth work in Frankfurt allo...

He already knows from his brief ... perience in that city that the going ... be tougher than during his stint ... the Berlin Rockers.

When he offered to mediate in ... IYC conflict, he was told by the ... sters: "We don't need a mediator... need somebody who'll fight with us"

Walter Gulem...

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 8 August ...)

The price of true love (quite high)

Women who do unpaid social work for prisoners sometimes live dangerously.

Falling in love appears to be the main problem. And love is blind.

For Agnes, a 38-year-old, it was also expensive.

Her downfall was a 39-year-old engineer called Reinhold.

After he had served a four year term for fraud, Agnes decided, despite her legal background (she is a lawyer) to demonstrate her trust in him.

Before setting off for a few days relaxation at a spa, she handed over both house and car keys.

On her return she found that Reinhold had been at it again.

Her car had been crashed and was fit only for scrap, and her bank account was DM7000 lighter.

A Bonn court has sent Reinhold back inside for another two years.

But this is no isolated case, says the Düsseldorf Justice Ministry. In fact, the problems are growing in direct proportion to the growing number of such volunteer workers provided by church organisations, trade unions, citizens initiatives, societies, etc, in the hope that close contact with a prisoner will prevent his returning to crime.

The Siegburg Prison was recently faced with 500 such volunteers, each clamouring for a prisoner to look after. The prison tried to stem the tide, and now has 350 of them. The trouble is there are so many that proper supervision is impossible. There have been cases where drugs have been smuggled into prison.

Dr Werner Ruprecht, head of the Cologne Prisons Administration, by and large sees this volunteer work in a positive light. But he also points to the risks for the volunteers, and the prisons make a point of drawing attention to them.

But people who are determined to believe in the good in every person are not very receptive to such warnings.

Medical doctor Doris H. considered herself duty bound to help risoners back on their feet. Her particular charge was Peer Kaschick who was serving a 15-year term for manslaughter in a prison near Bonn.

The two got married and Kaschick made use of German law that enabled him to take his wife's name.

One day, however, he went away and didn't come back. Using his new untarnished name, he returned to his old habits and was eventually arrested in Spain.

A disabled Cologne woman is now expecting a child from a prisoner. Such romances are common; women tend to fall in love even with murderers.

Jürgen Bartsch, for instance, the notorious "fun fair killer", married his volunteer worker.

Most of these marriages wind up on the rocks, though there are exceptions as in the case of Günter Weigand who married his volunteer worker, a teacher, and has been happily married for the past 15 years.

But then, Weigand is not exactly a criminal type.

When the Münster lawyer Paul Blomert was found dead on 25 Aug... 1961, the public prosecutor ... hastily closed his file, attributing the de...ath to suicide.

Weigand accused the prosecution ... deliberately covering-up a murder ... cause Blomert had close ties with M...ster's most prominent citizens.

These accusations earned Weig... two years.

Prison wardens attribute the freq... failures and disappointments that ... with voluntary prison work to the ... that "the wrong people try to do ... for which they are ill suited."

Most of these voluntary workers ... near the prison. But once the pris... has been released he returns to his ... place of residence, usually hundreds ... miles away.

One prisoners, who was offered ... home and a job by a Cologne family ... turned to his old milieu.

"They looked at me as if I w... monkey in a zoo because I wasn't ... good at handling knife and fork," ... said later.

The way one warden sees it: ... need less academics and old maids ... volunteer workers and more blue-co... people and artisans."

But even wardens are not bey... making foolish mistakes: Michael ... who was serving a 15-year term ... Hesse prison, has been at large with ... 19-year-old prison guard Bärbel N. ... last November. She helped him esc... and joined him.

Says a justice ministry spokes...: "This is a unique case that shows ... prison guards are just people like ... and me."

Horst Zimmerm...

(Der Tagesspiegel, 9 August ...)

SPORT

Rizzi twins running faster and jumping higher

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

...dreas Rizzi won the West German ...ecathlon championship in Lage ... total of 8207 points — ahead of ... Hingsen and world record holder ... Kratschmer.

...as the best decathlon performance ... German this year.

... Kratschmer, this was a double de... He lost a bet with Rizzi on the ...ionship and now has to pay for a ...

...schmer is full of admiration for ... Rizzi and for his twin brother ..., also a decathlete: "The two of ... work tremendously hard and train ...ively. They live for the decathlon. ...ns everything to them."

... combined Rizzi score was a staggering 16,100 points, an average of over ... each. Thomas quips that this score ... to earn them an entry in the ...ness Book of Records.

... name Rizzi sounds Italian — and ... Their grandfather, Romulus Rizzi, had one of the first Italian ice cream parlours in Germany — in Ludwigsburg.

But Andreas Rizzi does not feel any very strong ties to Italy — "except that I like spaghetti". And his fondness for beer is certainly more German than Italian.

The brothers' enthusiasm for the decathlon is infectious. Their first trainer was former 400-metres champion Ingo Röper. Since November they have been trained by former sprinter Rüdiger Harksen, who has helped Andreas in particular to make great progress in the track event and the long jumps.

Andreas also travels as often as possible to Mainz to train with national trainer Bergmann.

Andreas was trained in the classic style, concentrating on two disciplines per year. He still has to spend a year on the hurdles and the javelin — both weak points in his championship performance in Lage.

Indeed, this was the surprise of his championship victory — his training is only 80 per cent complete.

The same is true of Sigi Wentz, the junior champion. His total was 8191 points, only 16 fewer than Rizzi but better than Hingsen and Kratschmer.

This does not surprise Wentz: "Ever since our under 18 days there has never been a difference of more than 20 points between me and Andreas."

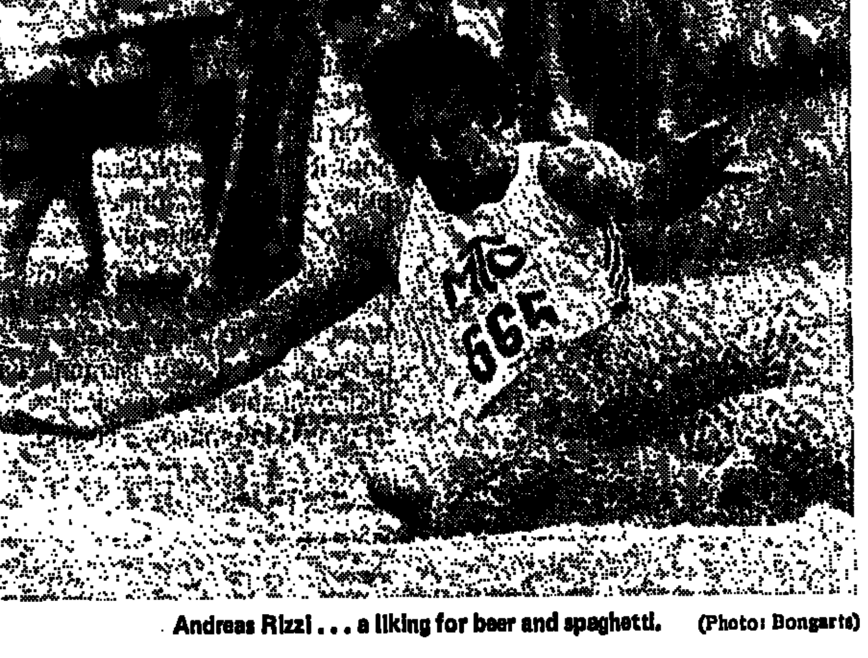
Wentz runs for LG Staufen. He is tall and strongly built. His build-up programme has been different. He first learnt the complicated technique in the throwing disciplines — as his 70.68 metres in the javelin underlines.

Over the winter, Wentz has been improving in the sprints and over hurdles. And he too beat world record holder Kratschmer. Kratschmer promised Wentz a case of champagne if he beat him over 400 metres — and he did.

If things go on like this, Kratschmer need have no fears about his successors, though he might find himself losing more and more bets.

Robert Hartmann

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 11 August 1981)



Andreas Rizzi . . . a liking for beer and spaghetti. (Photo: Bongarts)

Anton Mang's third world title

...nton Mang's win in the 250cc class ... at *Imatra*, in Finland, assures him ...e world motor-cycling champion... in that class for the second year ...ing.

...s his third world title and his se... this year. He earlier had won the ... prix at Silverstone to take the ... title.

... Finland, Mang needed just a point ...p the 250cc title. Instead, the 31-...old Bavarian and his Kawasaki took ...imum points for the eighth time out ...

...ng's grand total of 20 Grand Prix ...des puts him top of the German ...acer all-time league table. The last ...an to win two world champion... in one year was Werner Haas of ...burg in 1953.

...er his victory, Mang commented: ...k God the pressure is off. I'd like ...y here and take a holiday."

...ng is undoubtedly the best racer in ...lass. He has the best machine (Ka...i) and the best mechanic in Sepp ...d. Nonetheless the pressure has ... its toll and this was apparent in ...d.

...ng's next ambition is to go home ... take a good long rest.

... recently became the first Ger... world champion in the 350cc class ... his victory at Silverstone, where he ... his Kawasaki to his fourth Grand ... victory.

...e only German riders to achieve ... world championship victories were ...car specialists Max Deubel and Emil ...ner.

...ns Georg Anscheidt and Werner ... also won three titles. The only ... Germans to win world champion... were Ernst Degner, H.P. Müller ... Dieter Braun.

dpa

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 11 August 1981)

Mang and his trusty friend . . . racing into the record books. (Photo: Werek)

Self-assurance gives Ulrike the sky to aim at

Four years ago, high-jumper Ulrike Meyfarth was in a cul-de-sac. She knew something had to change. In August 1977 she changed clubs and joined Bayer Leverkusen, where Gerd Osenberg is trainer.

As she said at the time: "If I cannot make progress with him as trainer, I may as well give up the high jump altogether."

The next summer, she improved on her Olympic gold-medal winning height of 1.92 metres for the first time.

And three years after her record of 1.95 metres in Cologne, Ulrike Meyfarth is getting closer and closer to the magic height of two metres.

She recently set a German record with a jump of 1.96 metres — after 21 unsuccessful attempts this season.

And everyone who saw how narrowly she failed to clear 1.98 metres in Rhede will agree that this record is just a rung on the ladder to greater things.

Ulrike Meyfarth is no longer overawed by the prospect of attempting two metres. She feels it is now within her grasp.

Her confidence has increased enormously. She is no longer the timid girl she often seemed to be after her Olympic victory. Then, she always felt that she was being measured against her past performances, that she could not live up to them.

Osenberg has re-established her self-confidence. It has taken a long time. But, having taken so long to grow, it is now likely to last.

She derives strength from her stable background — the support of her family and her boyfriend, her course at Cologne University of Sport.

She no longer regards sport as an end in itself and so she no longer feels the intense pressure to perform.

Osenberg says: "The high jump is



Ulrike Meyfarth . . . confidence at last. (Photo: Nordbild)

part of the quality of like for Ulrike. She stands above things more."

Meyfarth has cast aside all the problems that beset her in the part and can now concentrate on improving her technique.

Osenberg says: "She has worked on her speed and now has a much more stable run-up."

Meyfarth recently spent two weeks in Spain with national trainer Dragan Tancic, concentrating on strength training. And in the next few days she will concentrate on the finer points of technique.

Now comes the European Cup qualifying events in Zagreb. Meyfarth says: "I have to win to qualify for the World Cup."

Her main rival will be the Italian world record holder Sara Simeoni, who hopes to be performing before her own crowd in the finals in Rome.

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 10 August 1981)